



General Assembly

February Session, 2014

***Raised Bill No. 5376***

LCO No. 1850



Referred to Committee on PROGRAM REVIEW AND INVESTIGATIONS

Introduced by:  
(PRI)

***AN ACT IMPLEMENTING THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE  
LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM REVIEW AND INVESTIGATIONS  
COMMITTEE ON THE REEMPLOYMENT OF OLDER WORKERS AS  
THEY RELATE TO THE BOARD OF REGENTS FOR HIGHER  
EDUCATION.***

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. (*Effective July 1, 2014*) The Board of Regents for Higher  
2 Education shall (1) conduct a feasibility study to examine the potential  
3 for expanding the manufacturing technology center model to create  
4 centers of excellence, as defined in section 10a-25h of the general  
5 statutes, for other high-demand career areas, and (2) implement the  
6 Plus 50 Initiative model throughout the regional community-technical  
7 college system. The Board of Regents for Higher Education shall  
8 report, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a of the general  
9 statutes, to the joint standing committees of the General Assembly  
10 having cognizance of matters relating to higher education and labor on  
11 the results of the feasibility study and the implementation status not  
12 later than July 1, 2015.

13       Sec. 2. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2014*) (a) Not later than July 1, 2015,  
14       the Board of Regents for Higher Education shall establish consistent  
15       parameters for noncredit vocational courses and programs to be  
16       recognized by each of the constituent units of the state system of public  
17       higher education, as described in section 10a-1 of the general statutes.

18       (b) Not later than July 1, 2016, and annually thereafter, the Board of  
19       Regents for Higher Education shall require each of the constituent  
20       units of the state system of public higher education to collect and  
21       report to the Board of Regents the following information regarding  
22       such noncredit vocational courses and programs: (1) Total enrollment  
23       and completion rates for such courses and programs, (2) participant  
24       information, including, but not limited to, the age and Social Security  
25       numbers of students enrolled in such courses and programs to enable  
26       subsequent tracking of such students, and (3) the employment status,  
27       job retention and wage rates for students both prior to enrolling in and  
28       after completion of such courses and programs.

29       Sec. 3. Section 10a-6b of the general statutes is repealed and the  
30       following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2014*):

31       (a) The accountability measures developed by the Higher Education  
32       Coordinating Council pursuant to subsection (b) of section 10a-6a shall  
33       be used by the Board of Regents for Higher Education and each  
34       constituent unit of the state system of higher education in assessing  
35       each public institution of higher education's progress toward meeting  
36       the following goals to: (1) Enhance student learning and promote  
37       academic excellence; (2) join with elementary and secondary schools to  
38       improve teaching and learning at all levels; (3) ensure access to and  
39       affordability of higher education; (4) promote the economic  
40       development of the state to help business and industry sustain strong  
41       economic growth; (5) respond to the needs and problems of society;  
42       and (6) ensure the efficient use of resources. The council shall develop  
43       an implementation plan for use of the accountability measures.

44 (b) In developing the measures pursuant to subsection (a) of this  
45 section, the council shall consider: [graduation] (1) Graduation rates,  
46 (2) student retention rates, (3) completions, (4) tuition and fees, (5)  
47 allocation of resources across expenditure functions, as defined by the  
48 National Association of College and University Business Officers, (6)  
49 revenues and expenditures broken out by programs, (7) student  
50 financial need and available aid, (8) transfer patterns of students  
51 transferring in and out of the constituent units, (9) trends in enrollment  
52 and the percentage of incoming students who are state residents, (10)  
53 strategic plans pursuant to section 10a-11, (11) data on graduates,  
54 including age and Social Security numbers, by academic [program,]  
55 and noncredit vocational course and program, (12) faculty  
56 productivity, and (13) any other factor that it deems relevant. All  
57 measures shall be made available for inspection and separated out by  
58 constituent unit, institution of higher education, campus and program.

59 (c) The council shall work with the Labor Department to (1) produce  
60 periodic reports, capable of being sorted by student age, on the  
61 employment status, job retention and earnings of students enrolled in  
62 academic and noncredit vocational courses and programs, both prior  
63 to enrollment and after completion of such courses and programs, who  
64 leave the constituent units upon graduation or otherwise, and (2)  
65 develop an annual affordability index for public higher education that  
66 is based on state-wide median family income.

67 (d) The council shall submit the accountability measures to the  
68 Board of Regents for Higher Education for the board's review and  
69 approval. Once the measures are approved, each constituent unit shall  
70 provide the data to the board that is necessary for purposes of  
71 applying the measures.

72 (e) Each public institution of higher education of the state system of  
73 higher education shall submit an accountability report to the president  
74 of the Board of Regents for Higher Education annually, by November  
75 first. The president shall compile the reports and shall submit, in

76 accordance with section 11-4a, a consolidated accountability report for  
77 the state system of higher education to the joint standing committee of  
78 the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to higher  
79 education annually, by December first. The report shall contain  
80 accountability measures for each constituent unit and public  
81 institution of higher education pursuant to subsections (a) and (b) of  
82 this section. The report shall include updated baseline and peer  
83 comparison data, performance improvement targets for each measure,  
84 and other information as determined by the president.

85 Sec. 4. Section 10a-161a of the general statutes is repealed and the  
86 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2014*):

87 The president of the Board of Regents for Higher Education and the  
88 Office of Higher Education shall report, biennially, in accordance with  
89 the provisions of section 11-4a, to the joint standing committee of the  
90 General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to higher  
91 education on state, northeast regional and national trends in (1) the  
92 cost of attendance at public and independent institutions of higher  
93 education and private occupational schools, and (2) the availability  
94 and utilization of all forms of student financial aid for academic and  
95 noncredit vocational courses and programs relative to economic  
96 conditions and personal income.

97 Sec. 5. (*Effective July 1, 2014*) The Board of Regents for Higher  
98 Education and the Office of Higher Education shall conduct a study of  
99 financial aid options for students enrolled in noncredit vocational  
100 courses and programs, including low interest loans whose payment  
101 may be subject to a sliding scale depending on income or deferred  
102 until the student is employed. The Board of Regents for Higher  
103 Education and the Office of Higher Education shall report, in  
104 accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a of the general statutes,  
105 to the joint standing committee of the General Assembly having  
106 cognizance of matters relating to higher education on the results of  
107 such study not later than January 1, 2015.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>July 1, 2014</i>	New section
Sec. 2	<i>July 1, 2014</i>	New section
Sec. 3	<i>July 1, 2014</i>	10a-6b
Sec. 4	<i>October 1, 2014</i>	10a-161a
Sec. 5	<i>July 1, 2014</i>	New section

***Statement of Purpose:***

To require the Board of Regents for Higher Education to (1) conduct a feasibility study to determine whether to expand the manufacturing technology center model to create centers of excellence for other high-demand career areas; (2) implement the Plus 50 Initiative model throughout the regional community-technical college system; (3) establish consistent parameters for noncredit vocational courses and programs to be recognized by each of the constituent units of the state system of public higher education; (4) collect data on students and noncredit vocational courses and programs to better serve such students; and (5) explore financial aid options for students and noncredit vocational courses and programs.

***[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]***